Alberta Finance
Economic Bulletin

ECONOMIC STATISTICS RELEASED DURING THE WEEK OF OCTOBER 22, 2001 TO OCTOBER 26, 2001

	Reference Period	Month/Previous Month (m/m)	Month/Previous Year's Month (y/y)	Comments
Retail sales	August 2001			After a slight decline in July, Canadian retail sales increased 0.3% in August. The furniture sector (-0.2%), general merchandise stores (-1.9%), and retail stores not elsewhere specified (-0.3%) were the only sectors which experienced declines in sales since July. Provinces that experienced increase in retail sales in August included New Brunswick (1.0%), Ontario (0.7%), Quebec (0.3%), and Alberta (0.3%). Manitoba (-1.4%), Nova Scotia (-1.1%), Saskatchewan (-0.5%), and Newfoundland (-0.1%) experienced declines sales, while Prince Edward Island and British Columbia experienced no change.
Alberta	2,909	0.3%	9.8%	
Canada	24,262	0.3%	5.0%	
Canadian Composite Leading Index (1992=100)	September 2001 166.4	0.1%	0.2%	The Composite Leading Index edged up 0.1% from August. Three out of six components that rose were related to household demand. Increases were observed in furniture and appliance sales (0.5%), other durable goods sales (0.4%), money supply (0.4%), average work week (0.3%), housing index (0.2%), and U.S. composite leading indicator (0.2%). The declines were in TSE 300 stock price index (-2.9%), new orders of durables (-1.1%), business and personal services employment (-0.4%), and shipments/inventories of finished goods (-0.01)
Rigs Drilling	October 258	-4.4%	-17.3%	The number of active rigs drilling in Alberta declined by 4.4% in October, reflecting the seasonal downturn in activity. This month's 17.3% decrease in drilling compared to October 2000 reflects lower energy prices. Year to date, rig activity is up 8.7% compared to the same period last year.